Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 20-32 and 35-37 without prejudice or disclaimer. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for delivering content to a subscriber terminal on demand through a communication network, the system comprising:

a content preparation module for pre-encrypting the content offline to form pre-encrypted content;

an on-demand module receiving the pre-encrypted content from the content preparation module, for storing, and transmitting the pre-encrypted content to the subscriber terminal when authorized;

an encryption renewal system interfacing with the on-demand module to generate time limited entitlement control messages allowing the pre-encrypted content to be decryptable for a time limited designated duration; and

a conditional access system for providing a periodical key to the encryption renewal system, to permit generation of the time limited entitlement control messages that convey information required to decrypt the pre-encrypted content including the periodical key to the subscriber terminal;

wherein said encryption renewal system performs periodic entitlement control message renewal in synchronization with said conditional access system and without re-encrypting the pre-encrypted content.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network is a cable network for distributing audio/video content from a cable central office to all or a subset of subscriber terminals.

3. (Previously Presented) A method of delivering content from one or more cable systems to subscriber terminals within the cable systems, the cable systems being communicatively coupled to an offline encryption device, the method comprising:

receiving by a first cable system, a request for the content from a first subscriber terminal of the first cable system;

pre-encrypting, by the offline encryption device, the content to form pre-encrypted content prior to the step of receiving a request;

generating an encryption record containing parameters employed for encrypting the content;

based on the encryption record and a first key information, generating one or more time limited control messages for permitting access to the pre-encrypted content;

transmitting the pre-encrypted content associated with the one or more control messages to the first subscriber terminal for decryption of the pre-encrypted content; and

periodically retrofitting a second time limited entitlement control message to the pre-encrypted content for permitting access to the pre-encrypted content after the first key information expires.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising

receiving, by a second cable system, a request from a second subscriber terminal of the second cable system, and

based on the encryption record and a second key information, generating one or more time limited control messages for permitting the second subscriber terminal to access the pre-encrypted content.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the first key information is provided by a conditional access system that uses the key information to control the first subscriber terminal.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the key information is for a key that is periodical and valid for a designated duration.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the designated duration is shortly before, contemporaneous with, or shortly after the first key is changed by the conditional access system.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the one or more time limited control messages is a first entitlement control message for conveying information to the first subscriber terminal to compute a key.

9. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising
changing the first key information after a designated duration, and reporting the key change by the first cable system.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the retrofitting of the second control message employs a second key information.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of retrofitting the second time limited entitlement control message is synchronized with changing of a first key information to the second key information.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising
providing the parameters from an encryption renewal system that generates the one or more time limited entitlement control messages.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of generating an encryption record is by an offline encryption system.

15. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising

providing first and second service tiers in the first cable system to further limit access to the pre-encrypted content.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising

generating a first entitlement control message allowing the first subscriber terminal to access the pre-encrypted content only in the first service tier, and

generating a second entitlement message allowing a second subscriber terminal to access the pre-encrypted content only in the second service tier.

17. (Previously Presented) A system for delivering first and second content to a subscriber terminal on-demand through a communication network, the system comprising:

means for pre-encrypting the first and second content offline to form first and second pre-encrypted content, and for generating a first encryption record associated with the first pre-encrypted content, and a second encryption record for the second pre-encrypted content;

means for generating a first and second time limited entitlement messages that allow decryption of the first and second pre-encrypted contents, respectively;

a conditional access system for providing information included in the first and second time limited entitlement messages by the means for generating; and

means for receiving the pre-encrypted content from the means for pre-encrypting, forwarding the first and second encryption records to the means for generating which generates the first and second time limited entitlement messages for forwarding to the subscriber terminal;

wherein said means for generating said first and said second time limited entitlement messages performs periodic entitlement control message renewal in synchronization with said conditional access system.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 further comprising means for generating a third entitlement message.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the third entitlement message is for permitting access to the first pre-encrypted content after expiration of the first time limited entitlement message.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the step of pre-encrypting is carried out using a third key, and the encryption record contains information about the third key.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33 further comprising translating the third key into the first key information.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38-39 (Cancelled)

40. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising assigning subscriber tiers, so that only a designated number of subscribers share each subscriber tier within a fiber node.

41. (Currently Amended) A system for delivering content to a subscriber terminal on demand through a communication network, the system comprising:

a content preparation module for pre-encrypting the content offline to form pre-encrypted content;

an on-demand module receiving the pre-encrypted content from the content preparation module, for storing, and transmitting the pre-encrypted content to the subscriber terminal when authorized;

an encryption renewal system interfacing with the on-demand module to generate entitlement control messages allowing the pre-encrypted content to be decryptable for a designated duration without requiring decryption of said pre-encrypted content; and

a conditional access system for providing a periodical key to the encryption renewal system, to permit generation of the entitlement control messages that convey information required to decrypt the pre-encrypted content including the periodical key to the subscriber terminal;

wherein said encryption renewal system performs periodic entitlement control message renewal in synchronization with said conditional access system and without re-encrypting the pre-encrypted content.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41 wherein the communication network is a cable network for distributing audio/video content from a cable central office to all or a subset of subscriber terminals.